IMT Nuremberg Archives

H - 4461

International Court of Justice

H4461 - 0002

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES

EVIDENCE DIVISION

Date : 20.8.48

I certify that Document Number 1594-PS was introduced into evidence as Exhibit Number RF-283 in the Trial by the International Military Tribunal of Hermann GOERING, et al, which commenced on 20 November 1945, and that the attached photostat is a true and correct copy of the original.

Fred Niebergall

Fred NIEBERGALL
Chief, Document
Control Branch.

H4461 - 0003

C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the annexed document PS-1594 No. RF-283 is a photostat of an original document submitted in evidence by the ~~United States~~ French Prosecution under this number. The original document has been withdrawn in accordance with Rule 10 of the International Military Tribunal, and to the best of my knowledge and belief is to be held at the National Archives, Washington D.C. .

Nürnberg, 20.8.46 Paul Joosten

PAUL A. JOOSTEN

General Secretary
International Military
Tribunal

283

OFFICE OF U.S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL
FOR THE PROSECUTION OF AXIS CRIMINALITY

Doc. No. 1594 PS Date 12 October 1945

STAFF EVIDENCE ANALYSIS

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT (Under following headings).

Title and Nature: Photostat copy of secret letter from the military governor of Belgium and Northern France signed by Von Falkenhausen re: Shooting of Hostages.

Date: 16 Sept. 42 Original ( ) Copy (X) Language: German

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL (also WITNESS if applicable) as of 12 October 1945: Unknown; copy in OCC Files Nurnberg.

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL: J.A.G. Wiesbaden.

PERSONS IMPLICATED: KEITEL, Wilhelm; JODL, Alfred; WARLIMONT, Walters; BRAUCHITSCH, Walter H.H.A. von.

REFERENCES TO INDEX HEADINGS (Key to Par. nos. of Summary below):
ATROCITIES: against civilians -- WEHRMACHT: OKW

NECESSARY PROCESSING TO PUT IN EVIDENTIARY FORM; LEADS: Von Falkenhausen, von Stulpnagel, von Rundstedt.

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS (with page references):

1. In a secret letter addressed to OKH, the Supreme Commander West and the Military Governor of France, Von Falkenhausen, reports on the shooting of hostages. He refers to an attached list (unfortunately missing).

2. In a great many cases, the real perpetrator was later found and convicted.

3. Von Falkenhausen realizes that these methods, far from intimidating the population, only serve to increase the feeling of hatred against the occupation troops and give food to enemy propaganda. In this connection he refers to a report on August 10th by the military governor of the Netherlands.

Analyst: Schafer.

Doc. No. 1594-PS

H4461 - 0004

TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENT 1594 PS
OFFICE OF U.S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL

The Military Commander in Belgium
and in Northern France

C.P., 16.9.1942
MS

Command Staff Ia/Mil Admin.
Ia 3369/42 secret

SECRET

TO
Supreme Army Command, Army General Staff/Gen Qu.
Supreme Commander West
Military Commander in France

For the information of:
Wehrmacht Commander in the Netherlands
Luftgan Command Belgium/Northern France

In the annex is forwarded a table of the shootings of hostages which have taken place until now in my area and the occurrences on account of which these shootings took place.

In a great number of cases, particularly in the most serious areas, the percentages were apprehended and sentenced.

This result is doubtless unsatisfactory to a great degree. The effect is not so much deterrent as destructive of the feeling of the population for justice and security; the breach between the sections of the population under Communist influence and the rest of the population is levelled down, all circles become filled with a feeling of hatred toward the occupying forces and effective inciting material is given to enemy propaganda. Thereby military dangers and general political reactions of entirely unwanted nature take place.

I have therefore regarded it more than ever as my duty in the first place to take the necessary steps for the apprehension of the perpetrators and besides this to take measures which assure the safety of the Wehrmacht but thereby avoid reactions which might arise by premature taking of hostages.

I may in this connection refer to a report of the Wehrmacht commander for the Netherlands for August 1942, which is contained in extract.

The Military Commander in Belgium
and Northern France

/s/ Von Falkenhausen
General of the Infantry

H4461-0005

Telegram

Message Center HIRX/Qu | Number 44278 | SECRET

accepted

by	day	time
HBZ	23/9	0000

To:

* * HBSX/MBF 3857 22.9. 1820 = =

Supreme Army Command attention of Quartermaster General Department K Administration - -

Reference: - - your communication department K administration (Adm) ROEM

2/1387/42 G. KDO V 2.9.42

Subject: Shooting of hostages

In agreement with the draft of the decree - -
Mil Commander in Belgium and in Northern France command staff ROEM 1 A No. 3416/42 GBH * *

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION
OF DOCUMENT NO. 1594 PS

15 November 1945

I, M/SGT WOLFGANG E. THORMANN, 33779426, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the German and English languages; and that the above is a true and correct translation of Document No. 1594 PS

WOLFGANG E. THORMANN
M/SGT, 33779426

H4461 - 0006

H4461 – 0007

Der Militärbefehlshaber in Belgien
und in Nordfrankreich

Kommandostab Ia / Mil. Verw.
Ia 3369/42 gkd.

O.U., den 16. 9. 1942
Ma

Geheim

An

O.K.H. Gen.St.d.H. / Gen.Qu.
Oberbefehlshaber West
Militärbefehlshaber in Frankreich

Nachrichtlich:

Wehrmachtbefehlshaber in den Niederlanden
Luftgaukommando Belgien/Nordfrankreich

In der Anlage wird ein Verzeichnis über die bisher in meinem Bereich erfolgten Geiselerschiessungen und der Vorfälle, wegen derer diese Erschiessungen stattfanden, überreicht.

Bei einem grossen Teil der Vorfälle, besonders bei den schwerwiegendsten, sind die Täter später gefasst und verurteilt worden.

Dieses Ergebnis ist zweifellos in hohem Masse unbefriedigend. Die Wirkung ist nicht so sehr abschreckend, wie zerstörend auf das Gefühl der Bevölkerung für Recht und Sicherheit; die Kluft zwischen den kommunistisch beeinflussten Volksteilen und der übrigen Bevölkerung wird verflacht, alle Kreise werden mit Hassgefühl gegen die Besatzungsmacht erfüllt und der Feindpropaganda wird wirksamer Hetzstoff gegeben. Daraus entstehen militärische Gefahren und allgemeine politische Rückwirkungen durchaus unerwünschter Art.

Ich habe es daher als meine Pflicht angesehen, noch mehr als bisher in erster Linie die zu treffenden Massnahmen auf die Erfassung der Täter abzustellen und daneben Massnahmen zu ergreifen, die zwar den Schutz der Wehrmacht sicherstellen, dabei jedoch Rückwirkungen vermeiden, die durch verfrühte Inanspruchnahme von Geiseln eintreten können.

52/325

1594 PS

PS 48086

H4461 – 0008

Zusammenfassung.

French

48088

H4461 – 0009

Fernspruch - Fernschreiben - Funkspruch - Blinkspruch

Nachr.-Stelle: HIRX/Qu

Nr. 44275

Gen. Qu. 3/66 ... 42 geh.

23 SEP 1942

Gruppe

Geheim

Bemerke:

Angenommen oder aufgenommen

von	Tag	Zeit	durch
HBZ	23/9	0110	[illegible]

-- GEHEIM --

Eingang

Nr.: ++ HBSX/ MBF 3857 22.9. 1820==

Beschränkte Stelle

Beschränkte Vermerk: OKH GEN ST D H GEN QU ABT K VERW.==

BEZUG:-- DORT. SCHREIBEN ABT K VERW. (VER W) ROEM 2/1387/42 G. KDO V 2.9.42.-

BETR.: GEISSELERSCHIESSUNGEN.-

DEM DORTIGEN ERLASS - ENTWURF WIRD ZUGESTIMMT==

MIL BEF I BELG U I NORDFR. KDO STAB ROEM 1 A NR 3416/42 GBH++

1.) Mil. Bef. Paris [illegible]

2.) Ur. 1.10 [illegible] 28/9

zusetzen, als es der Geiselzweck erfordert.

/ II.

1594 FS

B 48089

H4461-0009A

RF- 283

TRIBUNAL MILITAIRE INTERNATIONAL des GRANDS CRIMINELS - NUREMBERG
MINISTÈRE PUBLIC
DÉLÉGATION FRANÇAISE

H-4461

Photographie de l'original.

Filed Jan 24, 1946

1594 PS RF 283

283

DOC. R.F. N° ~~286~~ 283

B 48085

H4461 – 0010

H4461-0011

882

RF 2883
1594 95